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STAFF NOTES:

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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Campaign for Regional and Local Elections
Underway in Italy

The campaign for Italy's nationwide regional and local elections on June 15 is in full swing, with debate centering on national political themes.

The law-and-order issue continues to generate the most heat. One of parliament's last acts before recessing last week was the passage of a law intended to combat rising crime and political violence. None of the parties was satisfied with the final version; the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats wanted a tougher approach while the Socialists and Communists maintained that the law infringes on civil liberties by giving the police too much leeway in fields such as preventive detention. As a result, the law-and-order debate is likely to intensify as the campaign gathers steam, especially if the violence continues.

Growing differences between the Socialists and the Christian Democrats on other issues caused the Socialists to split with the center-left majority in the last few parliamentary votes. They refused, for example, to go along with the majority on policy toward state industries. If the Socialists do well in the elections they are expected to demand more influence in the management of the state industries, heretofore the almost exclusive preserve of the Christian Democrats and the major source of their patronage power.

The elections are also becoming an indirect referendum on the question of broader Communist participation in national policymaking. One of the main points in Christian Democratic leader

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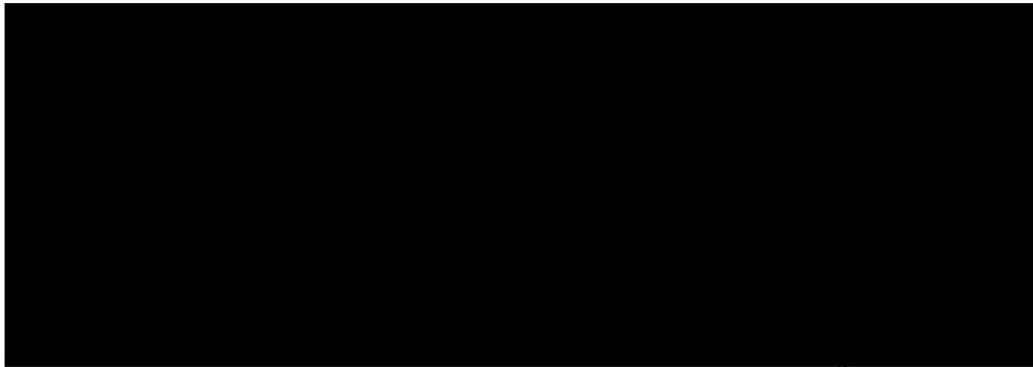
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3 | Fanfani's generally conservative platform is
a firm "no" to collaboration with the Communists
at any level of government. Communist chief
Berlinguer is campaigning on the theme that
Italy's problems can be solved only by ending
the "discrimination" against his party, Italy's
second largest.

1 | The polemic between Fanfani and the Com-
munists was enlivened this week by a Time maga-
zine interview with Fanfani in which he asserted
that collaboration with the Communists would
threaten international detente and spell the
"end of free Italy."

2 | Berlinguer was probably particularly ir-
ritated that the interview was aimed at an
American audience, since he has been trying to
allay the concerns of US officials about a possible
cabinet role for the Communists. For this reason,
2 | Berlinguer has so
far rejected the advice of other Communist leaders
3 | to comment more critically on President Ford's coming
visit to Rome. Berlinguer told an aide that he wants
to assure the US that Communist participation in
the government would not upset the East-West balance.
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Portuguese Military Counters Socialists' Challenge

The Portuguese armed forces general assembly's announcement on Monday that it will seek links with "popular organizations" is bringing increased pressure on the Socialists to back down from their challenge of the ruling Armed Forces Movement.

The details of the assembly proposal are to be ironed out by a working group and debate within the military on this issue is probably not over; in any case, it will take considerable time to put the proposal into effect.

The Socialists, who have seized on the issue of the takeover of the newspaper Republica to test the Movement's commitment to democratic forms, may have overestimated the leverage they gained from their election victory last month. Even moderate officers appear to have gone along with blaming the Socialists for the current political situation. For some moderates such a position may be self-serving, but many probably genuinely believe the Socialists have pushed too fast and too hard.

The Socialists evidently do not like their choices--either back down, encouraging the Communists, or quit the government, leaving the field to the Communists. No decision, they said, will be made until another round of discussions is held with the leading military figures later this week. On the other hand, a favorable decision on the Republica issue may give them a way out.

Socialist leader Soares, meanwhile, has been in Paris seeking support from several West European Socialist parties. In a Le Monde

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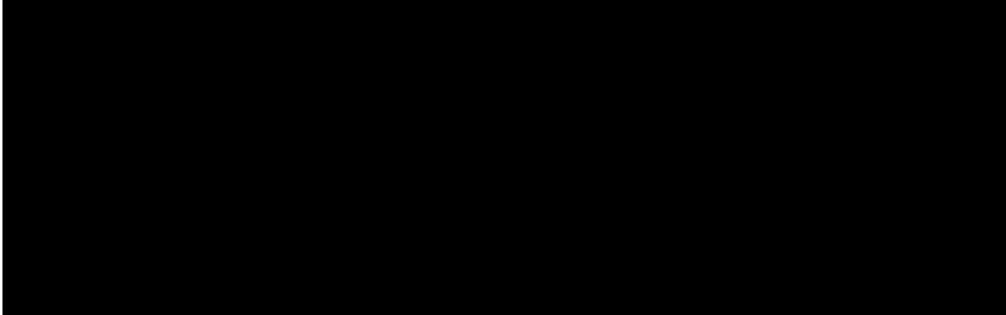
interview, Soares pointed to the contradiction between the Brezhnev policy of detente and the Stalinist attitude of the Portuguese Communists.

Soares confirmed that he had met with Spanish Communist leader Carrillo to discuss the "common problems of socialism and democracy." The Spanish Communists, along with the Italian Communists, have found that events in Portugal are hurting their own efforts to pose as responsible parties that can work within a democratic framework.

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The Portuguese Communists have paid little heed to the problems they are causing other European Communists. The Communists are saying they are the vital link between the Armed Forces Movement and the people.

The Communists have called a demonstration, which they describe as in support of the Movement. The demonstration, set for today, will coincide with the beginning of shore leave in Lisbon for US and other NATO ship crews who have been on maneuvers off the Portuguese coast.
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NPT Conference Deadlocked

The conference reviewing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty concludes on Friday, but negotiations on the final communique are at an impasse. If the differences among NPT parties on how to strengthen and expand the treaty goals remain unresolved, future adherence to the treaty may be discouraged and international confidence in the value of non-proliferation efforts in general could be further undermined.

The final document was originally intended to reaffirm a commitment to the objectives of the treaty and to practical steps for strengthening non-proliferation measures. Many of the conference participants--the developing countries, in particular, but some Western European states as well--have used the drafting of the document to urge on the treaty depository states--the US, UK and USSR--actions that most non-nuclear states consider essential to the treaty's survival.

They argue that the commitment of the nuclear powers to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty is the quid pro quo for the pledge of the non-nuclears to forego the acquisition of nuclear weapons. Since these states feel that little progress has yet been made by the nuclear powers towards a test ban, they are pressing for timetables or deadlines for the negotiation of a test ban--demands which the nuclear powers totally oppose.

The treaty parties are also hung up on the formulation of articles dealing with security assurances to non-nuclear states, the comprehensiveness of safeguard coverage on the

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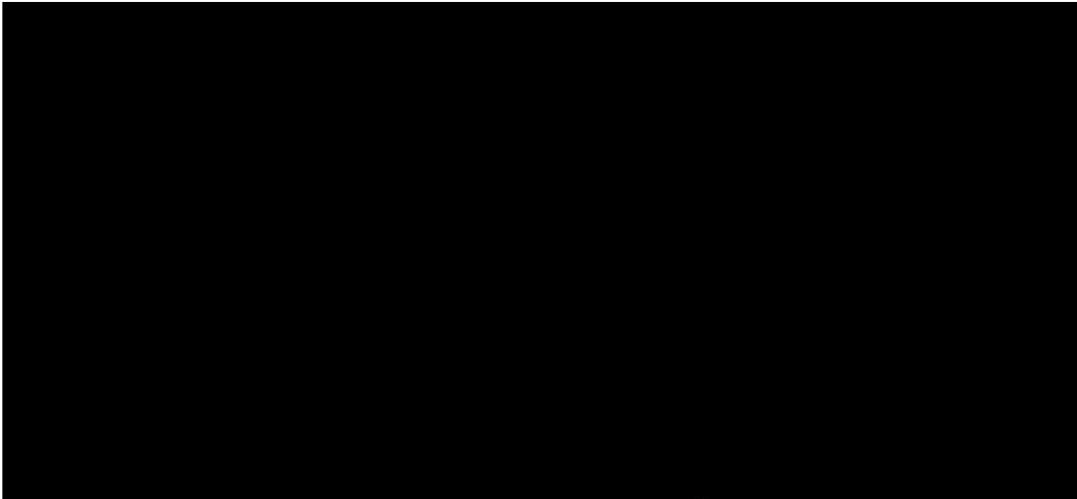
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1 | facilities of non-NPT parties and the provision
of peaceful nuclear explosion services by the
nuclear states to the non-nuclears.

2 | The Soviets have drawn up a declaration
that they will present should the stalemate in
negotiating a meaningful declaration continue.
With only two days left, the conference may
have to settle for the Soviets' basically anodyne
formulations. (Confidential)

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